

TOWN OF HERNDON

Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HERNDON MAYOR O'REILLY DISCUSSES IMMIGRATION REFORM, LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WITH HERNDON HIGH STUDENTS

Herndon, VA (April 6, 2006) – Following yesterday's student demonstrations regarding immigration reform, Herndon Mayor Michael L. O'Reilly visited Herndon High School earlier today to engage in constructive dialogue with students about the controversial issue.

"It's heartening to see the level of interest and the degree of understanding among our young people relative to this complex and often polarizing issue," O'Reilly said. "As I spoke with students today, I found them to be bright, compassionate and open-minded to viewpoints that may be different than their own."

O'Reilly visited the school at the invitation of Principal Frances Ivey, who responded to his offer of assistance by asking him to meet with students. Throughout a two-hour period the Mayor met with approximately 150 students in small, informal groups over pizza.

"My aim was not to influence them in any way toward one viewpoint or another," he said. "Rather, our conversations evolved into mini-civics lessons – how a bill becomes law, and how citizens can impact the process. I urged each of the students to contact the offices of Senator Warner, Senator Allen and Congressman Wolf, and I provided them with hand-outs that included phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses for their Congressional representatives."

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 22,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.herndon-va.gov.

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